

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

FIELD TRIP OF SUNDAY, APRIL 24, TO HUNTERS ISLAND

About fifteen members and guests made the trip. The route lay along the high road until after crossing East Chester Creek bridge. There it followed the bridle paths skirting the shore. On all sides were evidence of advancing spring and many small plants of the various species of Golden Rods and Asters were noticed as well as wood betony, agrimony, burdocks, curly dock, and jewel weed. Also many clumps of the delicate green foliage of the day lily, *Hemerocallis fulva*, were seen. Spice bush was in full bloom making great thickets of feathery yellow. The flowers in bloom were: grape hyacinth, *Muscaria Botryoides*; dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra Cucullaria*; spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica*; crinkle root, *Dentaria diphylla*; colt's foot, *Tussilago Farfara*.

Much equisetum, both fertile and sterile fronds. All of these were scarce compared with what they were thirty years ago. Many other flowers that were perfectly familiar to the writer, who lived in the vicinity when she was a child were missing. One thing that interested the party was the sight of a loon disporting itself in the water about fifty feet off shore. It seemed quite tame and not at all distressed by the boats and people near by. The party watched it for a half hour diving and swimming under water for thirty seconds, its passage marked by a dark agitated streak, then rising on its tail, while spreading its curved wings and uttering softly its peculiar cry. When the party broke up some returned by the subway, as they had come, and others by the longer route of the Split Rock road and W. and B. R. R.

¹ The party was glad to observe that there are at present no evidences of preparation for turning Hunters Island into a popular playground and bathing beach, as rumors threatened last year. Perhaps there are some brighter aspects in a shortage of municipal funds.

ZAIDA NICHOLSON

TRIP OF APRIL 30

Six members made the Saturday afternoon trip to Montville, New Jersey. The early spring flowers were at their height of

bloom with spice bush and June berry adding color to the woods. The first flower of spring, hepatica, was still in bloom due to the lateness of the season.

Rue anemone made the brightest display in the woods contested by the brilliant yellow marigold in the swamps. Other conspicuous flowers in bloom were the bloodroot, dwarf ginseng, sessile-leaved bellwort, dwarf everlasting, early buttercup, cinquefoil, gill-over-the-ground, golden saxifrage, yellow adder's tongue, and narrow-leaved spring beauty.

Four violets were in bloom, *V. papilionacea*, *V. conspersa*, *V. sagittata*, and *V. pallens*.

Of the mosses, *Physcomitrium turbinatum* attracted attention with its shining, erect, urn-shaped capsules.

W. L. HIGHTON

WEEK-END AT BRANCHVILLE, MAY 20 TO 22

As in other years, the plans for the trip were made by Mr. and Mrs. William Gavin Taylor, who were the most gracious hosts of the party. Over 80 people attended the Saturday evening program, varying numbers going on the different trips arranged for the study of geology, birds and plants. The geological trips were led by Dr. Kummel, the plant trips by Dr. Wherry and Mr. Medsger, and the early morning bird trips by Dr. and Mrs. Chubb. The evening programs were as follows:

Friday evening

Dr. E. W. Sinnott, "The Torrey Botanical Club."

Dr. H. B. Kummel, State Geologist, "Geological Outline" as a preparation for the Saturday geological field outing.

Mr. George T. Hastings, "Some Botanical Impressions of Hawaii." Illustrated by lantern.

Mr. Oliver P. Medsger, "Nature Poetry."

Dr. Edgar T. Wherry, "Collecting Plants from the Atlantic to the Pacific." Illustrated by lantern.

Saturday evening

Mr. Oliver P. Medsger, "Experiences with Birds in Florida and California."

Dr. Edward I. Keffer, "Bird Studies at Gaspé." Motion pictures.

Dr. S. H. Chubb, "Bonaventure Island Bird Sanctuary." Illustrated by lantern.

As Dr. Sinnott was unable to attend the meetings he sent a letter from which the following is quoted:

Most happy reports have come to me as to the pleasant and profitable times enjoyed by every one at this famous annual event. I am glad to say a word or two, thus at long distance, about what the Club means to me and what it should mean to the people of the New York region.

As a professional botanist I have found it most stimulating to meet frequently with people whose interest in plants is purely an avocation. Not only is their enthusiasm infectious but their ideas and knowledge are of great value scientifically. As a means for mutual acquaintance and interchange of ideas between the large number of professional botanists and the much larger number of non-professional ones the Club renders an important service to the science of Botany itself.

Still more valuable, however, is its part in focussing intelligent attention and interest upon plant life. There is an instinctive love in the heart of almost every one for plants. This may, and frequently does, express itself only in an admiration for flowers and a desire to pick them. On a higher level it has led to the tremendous spread of the garden movement in the past two or three decades. Even this, however, is largely an aesthetic enthusiasm unless it reaches further than mere admiration for plants. Only when a person catches a glimpse of the remarkably intricate and beautiful structures of the plant and of the amazing manner in which it maintains its life, and only when he sees the plant population of his region as a result of a long historical process of evolution and migration, and its members as beautifully adapted to the various conditions which present themselves—only then does he experience the real fervor of botanical enthusiasm. In this age of the machine when life in so many respects is artificial, it is becoming more and more necessary to keep in touch with natural and fundamental realities, and an intelligent interest in the plant kingdom is the best means I know for attaining this end. In the great problem of making people happier and persuading them to live fuller lives I am convinced that Botany—together of course with nature study of all sorts—has an increasingly important rôle to play. The Torrey Club is the natural focus for all these activities in the New York region and should be the means of drawing into Botany, as an avocation, thousands of people who now look upon the science as a useless and even silly diversion. The Club can do this best by bringing people in the open to see plants as they grow in the wild, as is being done by our field trips.

The geological trips were by automobile to the tops of several of the higher hills to get a general view of the topography, while the leader described the changes that had occurred in the past ages. Outcrops of the Pre-Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian rocks were visited as well as hills and deltas of glacial materials. Fossils were hunted in several places—mollusks, brachiopods, trilobites and algae being found. In addition Bevin's rock shelter where Indian hunting parties camped in early days was visited.

On all of the trips quantities of Indian paint brush or painted cup, *Castilleja coccinea*, was seen in the fields. In places on the hillsides wild crab apples were in blossom, the species seeming to be *Malus glaucescens* which has been commonly confused with *M. coronaria*. In a meadow a few globe flowers, *Trollius laxus*, were found. Dr. Wherry has added the following notes on plants seen:

On The Pines property the Purple Mountain-Clematis, *Atragene americana* Sims, was in full bloom. A large colony of *Botrychium neglectum* Wood was found on the hill east of barbed-wire fence on east side of the property.

In the Tamarack swamp southeast of Lafayette, *Menyanthes trifoliata* L., *Betula pumila* L., and *Rhamnus alnifolia* L'Her were among the northern species collected.

Sunday morning a trip was made to the extensive swamp near Springdale, southwest of Newton. Great masses of the yellow water buttercup, *Ranunculus delphinifolius* grew in the open water. The most striking feature here was the remarkable abundance of yellow Cypripediums. In wet soil the "slippers" were constantly small in size, so that the term *C. parviflorum* Salisbury seems quite appropriate for them. In drier places all the plants bore large-sized slippers, corresponding to *C. pubescens* Willd. These distributional features cast doubt on the frequently expressed opinion that the yellow slipper-orchids are all one species. Other noteworthy finds were showy orchid, *Galeorchis spectabilis*, *Dryopteris cristata* X *marginalis* Davenport; *Arisaema pusillum* (Peck) Nash; *Geum rivale* L.; and *Trientalis americana* Pursh.

Dr. Chubb adds the list of birds seen by the party, though no one member saw the entire list.

TOTAL LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED WITHIN A RADIUS OF FIVE MILES

Heron, Great Blue	Nighthawk
Killdeer	Swift, Chimney
Dove, Mourning	Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
Vulture, Turkey	Kingbird
Hawk, Marsh	Flycatcher, Crested
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Phoebe
Hawk, Cooper's	Pewee, Wood
Hawk, Red-shouldered	Flycatcher, Least
Hawk, Sparrow	Jay, Blue
Kingfisher, Belted	Crow, American
Woodpecker, Hairy	Starling
Woodpecker, Downy	Bobolink
Woodpecker, Red-headed	Cowbird
Flicker, Northern	Blackbird, Red-winged

Meadowlark	Warbler, Worm-eating
Oriole, Orchard	Warbler, Blue-winged
Oriole, Baltimore	Warbler, Golden-winged
Grackle, Purple	Warbler, Northern Parula
Sparrow, House	Warbler, Yellow
Goldfinch	Warbler, Magnolia
Sparrow, Vesper	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
Sparrow, Grasshopper	Warbler, Black-poll
Sparrow, White-throated	Warbler, Black-throated Green
Sparrow, Chipping	Ovenbird
Sparrow, Field	Yellow-throat, Maryland
Sparrow, Song	Chat, Yellow-breasted
Sparrow, Swamp	Warbler, Wilson's
Towhee	Warbler, Canada
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Redstart
Bunting, Indigo	Catbird
Tanager, Scarlet	Thrasher, Brown
Martin, Purple	Wren, House
Swallow, Barn	Nuthatch, White-breasted
Swallow, Bank	Chickadee, Black-capped
Waxwing, Cedar	Thrush, Wood
Vireo, Red-eyed	Thrush, Veery
Vireo, Warbling	Thrush, Olive-backed
Vireo, Yellow-throated	Robin
Warbler, Black and White	Bluebird

BIRDS OBSERVED ONLY AT HIGH POINT. ALTITUDE 1809 FEET

Junco	Kinglet, Golden-crowned
Warbler, Myrtle	

BIRD OBSERVED ONLY AT GREAT SPRING SWAMP. 10 MILES DISTANT

Woodpecker, Pileated